

Annual Elections scheduled for August Meeting

August leads off with the Annual Club Elections. Bylaws information can be found online: www.w4doc.org regarding the format for this process. At the time The Ham was compiled for August, Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC, was getting the nudge to run for office as President of ARC.

Candidates for office are required to select a slate of officers to run on the ticket. We look forward to a fun year and a good turnout at this meeting.

David Ziskind, KE4QLH

Emergency Coordinator North Fulton ARES, will be on hand to present a program on Emergency Communications. This should also be an excellent program. See you Thursday Aug. 7 at 7:30PM.



Andy Keels, KD4ABB, and Rick Black, K4RAB, operating at the 1993 Atlanta Radio Club Field Day. An organized 2004 event is being planned...stay tuned

My 2003 Field Day Experience

They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Well, this wasn't a thousand miles, and it began with a very ambitious plan. My plan was really simple, to visit as many Field Day operations as possible in 24 hours.

A little background. I have recently been appointed Assistant District Emergency Coordinator for the National Weather Service Office in Peachtree City. The NWS office in Peachtree City has a County Warning Area of ninety-six counties in north and central Georgia. My goal was to find the location of as many sites as possible, and visit what I could. I found or was invited to 26 different sites.

**Chris Wilkie
W1LKE**

This was going to be a meet and greet, shake hands and chat type of mission. I put together a little, if eleven pages are little, handout explaining the operations of Georgia Skywarn, WX4PTC, and the regional weather nets.

Things got off to a bad start earlier in the week. I finished my handout, and wanted to have enough copies to give one to every Ham I met. Well, printing page three of the first copy, My printer died. It was 9:05 p.m., and Best Buy had just closed. Friday I had to work at the Fire Department at 7:00 a.m. Well I took my paper, in case I could at least get some printed at work. Not a chance, the toner was low on the printer. I got off work at 7 a.m. Saturday, got breakfast and went home. Once home, I got cleaned up and changed, packed and loaded. I was off to Best buy to buy a printer. Once I got to the store, I found a Lexmark Sales Rep there. I asked a million questions, did a little math, and found going to the Kinko's copier place was going to be immensely cheaper. Ran home to get my file disks. Helped a neighbor catch his dog, and was at Kinko's around 1:00p.m. Finally, at 2:00 p.m., my journey began.

First stop, Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club, on the campus at Southern Polytechnical University, Marietta. Very large group, under a sidewalk overhang. Antennas were everywhere. I think they had 8-10 eight foot tables for their operations. Nice group of people.

Next came Cherokee County ARES. They were located in a park on the shores of Lake Alatoona. They were spread out, and even had maritime operations going. This is the first place I heard about the bands being dead. Good group of people headed up by Steve Hammond. This guy leads by example and you can tell.

Calhoun was next. The operations there were set up at the Cherokee Capital Fairgrounds. Small group with a huge stack of pizzas. I had to pass, I knew if I ate a pizza there wouldn't be a Tums until I got way down the road.

I found my way to Rome. I can't remember the name of the park, but it was a lake serving a hydro-electric plant.

(Continued on page 6)

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Attn: HAM EDITOR
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Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday August 7, 2003 7:30PM

WHERE:

Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive –
Atlanta

PROGRAM:

Emergency Communications

David Ziskind, KE4QLH

Emergency Coordinator NFARES

TALK IN:

146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER:

6:15PM The Picadilly Cafeteria
1544 Piedmont Rd – Ansley Mall

The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. BOX 720398

Atlanta, Georgia, 30358



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*Russ, AE4NY, holds down the fort at the
NOGA table during the 2003 Atlanta Hamfest*

TWO RECENT IRAQ WAR CASUALTIES WERE AMATEUR LICENSEES

Source: The ARRL Letter
Vol. 22, No. 29 - July 25, 2003



47th Annual Shelby Hamfest
(The hamfest is held every Labor Day weekend)
"The Grand-Daddy of Them All"
To be held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in
Shelby, North Carolina
August 30, 2003 & August 31, 2003
Talk-in 146.28/88
Visit our web site at www.shelbyhamfest.org

Two of the most recent casualties of the war in Iraq were Amateur Radio licensees. According to an Associated Press report, Specialist Jon Fetting, KC0HSQ, of Dickinson, North Dakota, died July 22 in an ambush on a road some 50 miles north of Baghdad. Another soldier from Fetting's Army National Guard unit was wounded in the attack. Both belonged to the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company based in Bismarck. Fetting, 30, a member of an engineering unit in Dickinson, had volunteered to fill a vacancy in the Bismarck company to bring it up to full strength. A Guard member for some 11 years, Fetting died at the scene of the ambush.

On July 23, Nadisha Yassari Ranmuthu, 4S7NR--an international Red Cross aid worker from Sri Lanka--was shot and killed and his Iraqi driver wounded after their vehicle, marked with the Red Cross emblem, came under fire south of Baghdad. Ranmuthu, 37, a communications engineer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), reportedly died instantly. The Red Cross has 850 staffers now working from eight bases in Iraq. Ranmuthu was there to install communications equipment at Red Cross offices and to help train Iraqi operators to use it, news accounts said.



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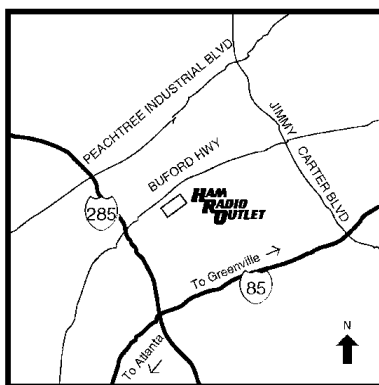
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METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainseville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Thursday – EVEN # MONTHS 7:00 PM
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC
Peachtree City Library, downstairs
Ed Ferguson, N4YTR (edferg@peoplepc.com)

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second SaturdayCA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, K14RD (770)978-9160

Second Saturday – ODD # MONTHS 10:00 AM
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC
Peachtree City Library, downstairs
Jan Dubroca (770 502-0760) jan.dubroca@delta-air.com

Third SaturdayCA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth FridayW5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

Fouth Sunday ARRL VEC 2:30 p.m
Georgia Tech - Student Center
350 Ferst Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30332-0458
David Ziskind KE4QLH - 404-966-6864, ke4qlh@arrl.net

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2003

Always the 4th Saturday!
STARS – August, 12pm – 3pm SCITREK
Contact Penn. K4PE

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Valdosta ARC Hamfest
www.varc.net
8-10 Aug 2003

Huntsville ARC Hamfest
www.hamfest.org
16-17 Aug 2003

Jacksonville ARC Hamfest
www.jaxhamfest.com
18 Oct 2003

Chattanooga ARC Hamfest
www.hamfestchattanooga.com
25 Oct 2003

Alford Memorial Hamfest
www.totr_radio.org
1-2 Nov 2003

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**2004 Atlanta Hamfest:
Saturday June 5, 2004**

**THIS SPACE WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE
TO ADVERTISE!**

Contact the editor: John K14Y

NEWS AND NOTES...

Do you have any tidbits we need to include in the newsletter? Let us know— Ham Editor John, K14Y email: john@talipsky.com

My 2003 Field Day Experience...continued

Good group going here. While there I congratulated two brand new hams. They tested at the field day site. What a way to get more hams.

From Rome I headed to Cloudland Canyon State Park. Small group with probably the highest site in Georgia. If these guys don't mind, I might not make that drive again. Very long drive. I stopped and asked directions on the way, and the lady said, "about two miles down this road. It will be on your right." Ten miles later I stopped again. This time I was told it wasn't even a mile down the road. Five miles later I pulled into the park. Talk about no sense of distance.

From Cloudland Canyon I headed toward Dalton. This drive was well over an hour, maybe close to two. I was beat when I got there, stretched my legs and headed on.

Jasper was next on my list. These guys were in a city park, and had a 1000 foot loop up. They said it was their best antenna. I bet we chatted for an hour.

Leaving Jasper I started looking for a place to bed down for a few hours. Ended up in Roswell first, so I headed over to the park from which the North Fulton ARES was operating. They had all kinds of Ops going. A push-up pool second to none. Dipoles everywhere. Good set-up.

Next I hit GA 400 and headed north. I came up on the turn for the Forsyth county EOC/Ares operation. Well laid out group, good people for 3am. I loved the Italian sausage.

I continued up 400 and found a hotel. Got a room and about 5-6 hours sleep. The shower was great. Leaving the hotel, I decided to bypass the NOGA and Dahlenega sites. They were at private residences, and felt I would be lucky to find them. I left the hotel, turned right onto 400 and right onto Hwy 53, I think it was; destination was now Gainesville College and the Lanierland Radio Club.

I drove, chatting with K4PE on the Atlanta W4DOC repeater,. We tried to use his repeater, which he said should have been in range. Well, after driving on Hwy 53 for about 26 miles I finally saw a sign that said I was on 53 west. Hmm, that is strange, it should have read east. I pulled out the map book, found a cross street, made my U-turn and headed east. Penn was so happy to find the problem wasn't his repeater. Apparently I was so tired when I pulled into the hotel, I forgot that it was on the southbound side of GA400.

Well, Eventually I got to Gainesville, chatted for a few minutes and headed out. They were getting ready to take everything down, and I was just going to be in the way. Lawrenceville, here I come.

I came to the EOC first, visited their operations for a few minutes and headed over to GARS. GARS, or the Gwinette Amateur Radio Society was set up in a park. Excellent setup, lots of antennas. The roast beef sandwiches weren't bad either.

Off to Snellville and the Alford Memorial Radio Club. These guys do the Lawrenceville Hamfest and run W4BOC on "Top of the Rock", also known as stone mountain. They were beginning to breakdown. I chatted with a couple of guys there and turned south for home.

I decided to go by the Fayette County site, but, as I suspected, they had closed up and gone home. Seemed like a good idea, so I did too.

Overall I drove 536 miles, visited 14 sites, met over 100 hams, and recruited a repeater into the Skywarn system. Not bad for 26 hours of work.

ARRL to sponsor emergency communications course seminar in Huntsville: The ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (ARECC) seminar August 15 in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest 2003 in Huntsville, Alabama. The seminar will not include the Level I course itself. This program is designed to explain in greater detail the duties of volunteer certification mentors, instructors and examiners of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and provide additional information for those considering these volunteer positions. The seminar will be held Friday, August 15, 1-5 PM, in Forum Room 1. If you plan to attend, contact ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, k3ufg@arrl.org; 860-594-0340; fax 860-594-0259. Seminar attendance does not include admission to the hamfest, August 16 and 17. Visit the Huntsville Hamfest 2003 Web site <http://www.hamfest.org/index.htm> for more information on the event

2003 Huntsville Hamfest

August 16 & 17 2003

9-4:30 Sat & Sun

\$6 (Under 12 Free)

The following are attending and presenting forums:

Larry Price, W4RA, President of IARU

Jim Haynie, President of ARRL

Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL HQ Cont. Education

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358

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Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club

Vanity application fee goes up September 9

Source: The ARRL Letter
Vol. 22, No. 30 - August 1, 2003

The FCC says the new, higher Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity application. The FCC expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the Commission concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing "a nomi-

nal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call sign," the Commission said. The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request make it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc



ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC
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ATLANTA, GA 30358

MEETING NOTICE August 7, 2003